

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 HEW-08 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 111544 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9490

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

US MISSION GENEVA 2400

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3796

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, WHO, KS, KN, NI

REF: LAGOS 3985, MAY 11, 1972

1. ROK AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON (MOON), NOW IN LAGOS ON THREE- DAY VISIT, CALLED ON ME MAY 10 AFTER TWO HOUR DISCUSSION WITH MEA ASIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR HOLLIST. HE HAD PRESENTED TO HOLLIST STANDARD WELL- STATED ARGUMENTS FOR POSTPONING KOREAN ITEM DEBATE AT UNGA AND DPRK APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION WHO. HE LEFT WITH IMPRESSION HOLLIST UNDERSTOOD AND THAT CHANCES ARE REASONABLE NIGERIA WILL ABSTAIN AGAIN ON UNGA DEBATE ITEM. HE LESS SURE ON WHO QUESTION, HAVING FOUND HOLLIST " RATHER

NEGATIVE", BUT FELT HE MADE DENT IN MEA POSITION THAT WHO AS TECHNICAL BODY SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL NATIONS BY POINTING OUT QUESTION OF ADMISSION IS POLITICAL, NOT TECHNICAL, AND THAT UN POLITICAL ORGANS CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN ENTIRE RANGE OF KOREAN ISSUES.

2. MOON SAID HE IS SEEING DIRECTOR MEA ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT
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ALO TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL KOREAN PERSONNEL FOR ROK UNOFFICIAL TRADE MISSION IN LAGOS. ROK EXPORTS TO NIGERIA HAVE CLIMBED TO \$10 MILLION LAST YEAR, AND SINGLE ROK REP CANNOT HANDLE LOAD. ROKG HAD SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT MISSION MIGHT BE MADE OFFICIAL BUT HE HAD, APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY, ARGUED AGAINST IDEA ON GROUNDS SUCH REQUEST, IF GRANTED, WOULD STIMULATE DPRK REQUEST FOR SAME STATUS WHICH FMG UNDER ITS EXISTING POLICY LIKELY TO GRANT. I AGREED, NOTING THAT ANY KIND OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY NIGERIANS ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE GRANTED EITHER TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OR TO NEITHER; AND THAT ROK IS CURRENTLY ONE- UP ON NORTH BY HAVING UNOFFICIAL MISSION HERE-- A STATUS THAT MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED BY OPEINING QUESTION OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. MOON SAID HE FOUND NIGERIAN POSITION " BALANCED" AS FAR AS NORTH AND SOUTH CONCERNED, AND INDICATED HE SAW NO REASON TO DISTURB IT.

3. I ASSURED MOON WE WILLING TO HELP ON VARIOUS QUESTIONS AFFECTING ROK INTEREST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, BUT ARE LIMITED BY OUR OWN RELATIONSHIPS WITH, AND ATTITUDE OF, FMG. REPETITIVE OR STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ARE RESENTED BY MEA, PARTICULARLY ON BEHALF OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THIRD PARTIES WHO OCCUPY WHAT IT SUSPECTS TO BE A CLIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH US. IN THIS CONNECTION I REMARKED THAT MOON' S DIRECT PRESENTATION TO HOLLIST WAS BEST MOVE THAT COULD BE MADE ON KOREAN ISSUES HERE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT MOON WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN MEA APPOINTMENTS AFTER UNPRODUCTIVE VISIT LAST YEAR (REFTEL), MEA ALSO PROVIDED HIM AN OFFICIAL CAR DURING VISIT AND ARRANGED FOR HIM TO TRAVEL IBADAN BEFORE RETURNING YAOUNDE. THIS QUIETLY CORDIAL RECEPTION PROBABLY REFLECTS GROWTH IN TRADE, FACT THAT TRADE BALANCE IS HEAVILY IN ROK' S FAVOR, AND MOON' S EXPLANATION TO FMG OFFICIALS THAT HE IS SEEKING RECTIFY BALANCE. WITH NORTH KOREAN- NIGERIAN TRADE AT VIRTUAL ZERO, ROK HAS A CERTAIN ADVANTAGE HERE OVER ITS RIVAL THAT MAY GROW IF IT IS NOT PUSHED TOO HARD. MOON HIMSELF IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND ARTICULATE REP, AND HIS VISITS HERE ARE LIEKLY TO BE THE MOST, PERHAPS ONLY, EFFECTIVE MEANS TO GET OUR POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUES ACROSS TO FMG.

REINHARDT

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